

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial surface preparation, comprising a dispersion of wax and particles consisting essentially of uncombined elemental silver in an antimicrobially effective amount.

2. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver have a size between about 5 nanometers and about 100 nanometers on average.

3. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise at least about 0.005 % by weight.

4. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.3 % by weight.

5. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.25 % by weight.

6. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 1.0 micron between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

7. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of between about 0.5 microns and about 3.0 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

8. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 3.0 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

9. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of at least about 0.5 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

10. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise at least about 0.005 % by weight.

11. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.3 % by weight.

12. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.25 % by weight.

13. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 1.0 micron between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

14. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of between about 0.5 microns and about 3.0 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

15. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more that about 3.0 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

16. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 2 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of at least about 0.5 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

17. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial surface preparation, comprising a dispersion of wax and particles consisting essentially of uncombined elemental silver wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are available to be ionized in an amount sufficient to kill bacteria.

18. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said bacteria are killed at a rate of about 99 % within about 24 hours after said dispersion of wax and particles of uncombined elemental silver has been applied.

19. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver have a size between about 5 nanometers and about 100 nanometers on average.

20. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise at least about 0.005 % by weight.

21. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.3 % by weight.

22. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.25 % by weight.

23. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 1.0 micron between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

24. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of between about 0.5 microns and about 3.0 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

25. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more that about 3.0 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

26. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of at least about 0.5 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

27. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise at least about 0.005 % by weight.

28. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.3 % by weight.

29. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise between about 0.005 % by weight and about 0.25 % by weight.

30. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 1.0 micron between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

31. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an

average spacing of between about 0.5 microns and about 3.0 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

32. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more that about 3.0 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

33. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 19 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of at least about 0.5 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

34. (Currently amended) A surface preparation, comprising a dispersion of wax and particles consisting essentially of uncombined elemental silver wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise at least about 0.005% by weight.

35. (Currently amended) The surface preparation of claim 34 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver further comprise not more that about 0.3 % by weight.

36. (Currently amended) The surface preparation of claim 34 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver further comprise not more than about 0.25 % by weight.

37. (Currently amended) The surface preparation of claim 34 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver have a size between about 5 nanometers and about 100 nanometers on average.

38. (Currently amended) A surface preparation, comprising a dispersion of wax and particles consisting essentially of uncombined elemental silver wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver have a size between about 5 nanometers and about 100 nanometers on average.

39. (Currently amended) A method for producing a surface preparation comprising:

providing a supply of wax;

5 providing a supply of particles consisting essentially of uncombined elemental silver;

combining said supply of wax with said supply of particles of uncombined elemental silver to form a dispersion comprising said wax and said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver have a size between about 5 nanometers and about 100 nanometers on average.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise at least about 0.005% by weight.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise between about 0.005% by weight and about 0.3% by weight.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise between about ~~0.005%~~ 0.005% by weight and about 0.25% by weight.

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 1.0 micron between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of between about 0.5 microns and about 3.0 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of no more than about 3.0 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion with an average spacing of at least about 0.5 microns between said particles of uncombined elemental silver.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver are dispersed in said dispersion in an antimicrobially effective amount.

49. (Currently amended) A method for producing an antimicrobial surface preparation comprising:

providing a supply of ~~Armstrong-Exelon~~ commercially-available floor wax;

providing a supply of particles consisting essentially of uncombined elemental

5 silver wherein the size of each said particle of uncombined elemental silver is about 30 nanometers on average;

combining said supply of ~~Armstrong-Exelon~~ commercially-available floor wax and said supply of particles of uncombined elemental silver to form a dispersion comprising said wax and said particles of uncombined elemental silver wherein said
10 particles of uncombined elemental silver comprise about 0.005% by weight and wherein said dispersion kills bacteria at a rate of about 99% within about 24 hours of its application.

50. (New) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 1 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver have a size of not more than about 100 nanometers on average.

51. (New) The antimicrobial surface preparation of claim 17 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver have a size of not more than about 100 nanometers on average.

52. (New) The surface preparation of claim 34 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver have a size of not more than about 100 nanometers on average.

53. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein said particles of uncombined elemental silver have a size of not more than about 100 nanometers on average.

54. (New) An antimicrobial surface preparation comprising a dispersion of wax and particles of elemental silver that are not adhered to carrier particles.

55. (New) An antimicrobial surface preparation comprising a dispersion of wax and particles of elemental silver that are not adhered to ceramic particles.